



# **Wisconsin's Fish & Wildlife Annual Report**

**1998–1999**

MacJG Photo by Bob Queen, DNR



**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**George E. Meyer**  
Secretary

*Dear Friend:*

*I am pleased to bring you this, the second annual report on your hunting and fishing license dollars and how they are being spent. As you look through the pages you will see that many things look the same as last year's report. We have done this to allow easy comparison from year to year. Since this is an annual report, you will see fluctuations in the amounts of money received by the department as fish and wildlife revenue—primarily license fees and federal taxes on hunting and fishing equipment—and expenditures. Revenues are reflected when cash is received. Due to timing differences in billings and receipts, federal grant revenue may fluctuate from year to year. This report will also give you an idea of how other department funds are used to benefit hunting and angling in Wisconsin.*

*We are interested in improving this report each year to make it more useful and informative to you. Please take a close look at the report and let us know what we can do to make it better.*

*Have a great year hunting and fishing in Wisconsin!*

*George E. Meyer*

# Wisconsin's Fish & Wildlife Annual Report

## Contents

Introduction .....	i
Chapter 1    Fish .....	1
Chapter 2    Wildlife .....	3
Chapter 3    Enforcement .....	5
Chapter 4    Facilities and Lands .....	7
Chapter 5    Licenses .....	9
Chapter 6    Regional Management .....	11
Chapter 7    Administration .....	13

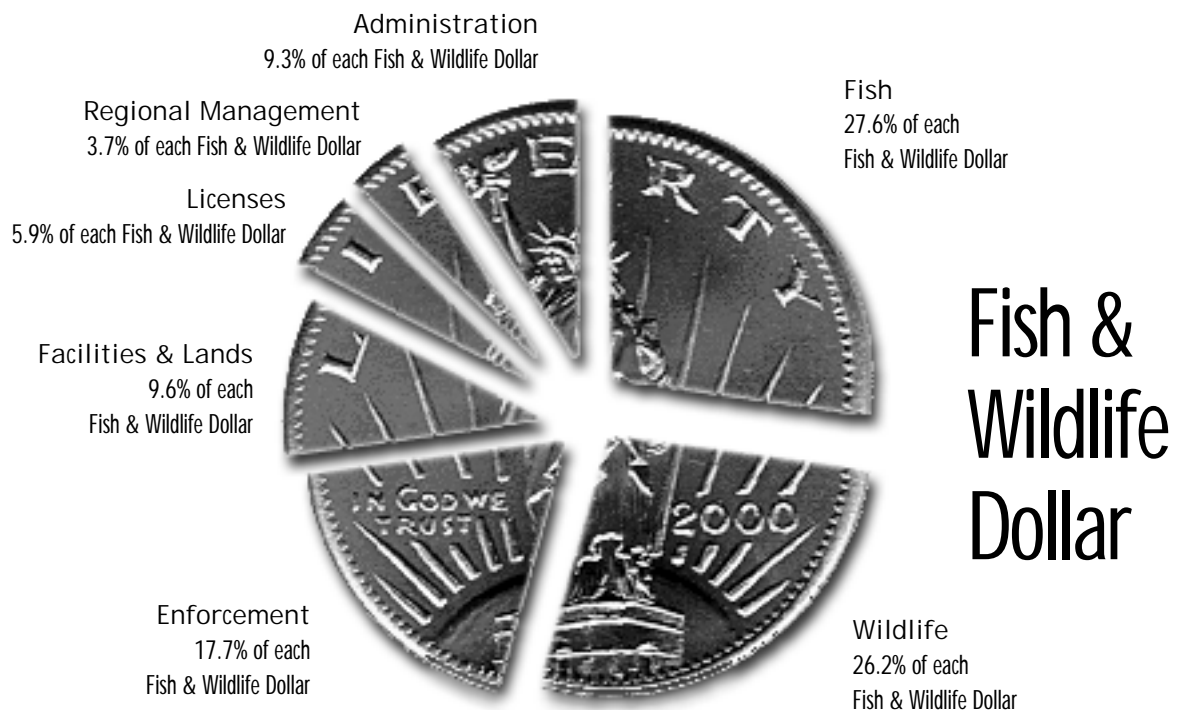




# Introduction

Support from the hunting and angling community is vital. In Fiscal Year 1999 (FY99), \$72.8 million of hunters' and anglers' dollars were spent to protect and enhance fish and wildlife populations and ensure good hunting and fishing for all. The \$72.8 million represents 16.5% of the total funds DNR spent on all programs. This money covers a variety of activities that support hunting and fishing in Wisconsin such as selling licenses, paying the professionals who manage the fish and wildlife populations, communicating with the public, buying public hunting and fishing grounds, enforcing the laws, improving habitat, stocking fish, keeping conservation wardens in the field, providing legal support for land purchases and counsel in enforcement cases; conducting education and outreach; and the general costs of doing business like paying the bills and hiring staff.

For purposes of this report, the \$72.8 million Fish & Wildlife Account portion of the \$442.1 million total DNR expenditures, is split into seven categories: Fish, Wildlife, Enforcement, Facilities & Lands, Licenses, Regional Management, and Administration. The chapters of this report will show how we spend these funds and what we achieved in each of those seven categories.



While the Fish & Wildlife funds are vital to our mission, other funding sources directly benefit hunting and angling. Maximizing the \$442.1 million the department spent in FY99 to meet all of our goals was a major purpose of reorganizing the department.

## Other Funding Sources

Some of these benefits are easy to see:

Forestry funds: providing 442,428 acres for camping, hiking, hunting and fishing.

Parks funds: providing habitat, fishing and some hunting programs as well as educational programs about fish, wildlife and habitat.

Endangered Resources funds: providing habitat for fish and wildlife on about 80,000 acres of state managed natural areas with fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities at many of these sites; as well as informational materials about fish and wildlife, management of many nongame and endangered or threatened species, and survey and inventory information on a wide range fish and wildlife.

Boating, ATV and Snowmobile funds: providing safety programs, enforcement of laws, boat ramps and trails maintenance which gives anglers and hunters access to fishing and hunting sites.

General tax revenue and bonding (such as the Stewardship Program): providing habitat for fish and wildlife as well as public hunting, fishing and wildlife observation on about 135,000 acres of land surrounding the Chippewa, Turtle Flambeau and Willow flowages and on several large rivers in Wisconsin. This year we added to this total with the newest and largest state land purchase ever made "The Great Addition."

And some benefits may seem less apparent, but contribute to the quality of hunting and fishing in Wisconsin just the same:

Clean Air Funds: reducing airborne toxins like mercury that end up in the fish we eat.

Wetland Protection Funds: providing protection and mitigation of wetlands, which serve as nurseries and communities for fish and wildlife.

Non-Point Funds: providing erosion and runoff management which improve the water quality, clarity and temperature and contribute to healthy habitat for fish and wildlife to live and reproduce.

Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine: providing information and entertainment to hunters and anglers, as well as keeping non-hunters and non-anglers in Wisconsin informed on important issues. It is provided as part of the Conservation Patron License benefits.



\$442.1 million total DNR Costs FY99